

My Dear Parishioners,

Among the strong impressions made by the "World Call" is that upon English students at home and abroad. The University life of Cambridge, particularly, is aflame with Missionary enthusiasm, and it is finding an effective outlet in a Students' Mission; a large number of students have made an expert study of the five great Missionary Reports, and are now engaged upon a campaign of instruction and appeal in groups up and down the country. Their method is to send a group of students to a Rural Deanery, where they are distributed two by two amongst the constituent parishes, addressing the congregations and various organisations as arranged parochially. Such a visit has been arranged for Wallasey early in October next, and the two undergraduates allotted to Poulton will address our workers of all departments on Saturday, Oct. 1st; on the Sunday they will have charge of the Children's Service in the afternoon, and of the usual evening Service; on Monday evening they will address a Public Meeting of the Poulton people in the Memorial Hall. Services of preparation for this visit will be announced in due course, and we shall, I am assured, take into our hearts and prayers the fruitfulness of the Mission, as a means of kindling a fresh warmth to our Missionary zeal.

NEW PRAYER BOOK. In May last, the Clergy of the Diocese met in Synod to consider the new book, and voted for its acceptance by about 4 to 1. Last month, the Diocesan Conference met (clergy and laity), and after frank discussion, voted for acceptance by about two to one. This voting follows the general direction of other Dioceses; so the consensus of Church opinion seems to indicate that the Book ought to have the permissive authority sought for it. Its passage through Parliament will, however, not be so smooth. It is understood that it will be opposed in the House of Lords by Lord Oxford and Asquith, and in the Commons by Mr. Lloyd George - neither of whom are members of our Church. There is no space here to analyse the provisions of the New Prayer Book; I have already done so to our Communicants' Guild and before the Ruri-Decanal Conference; I hope to explain what is involved by the changes in it at an early date in Church as well. Meanwhile, one cannot help referring to the anomaly of Church enactments—made representatively by the Church itself in the matter of its own doctrine and worship—being traversed and blocked by a heterogeneous body, professing all faiths or none. One can understand and appreciate the care of the makers and guardians of the country's law, that the Church transgress it not; but that a body containing non-Christian men, as well as members of other Christian bodies, should be able to permit or forbid to the Church her own desired prayers and formularies, would be incredible were it not an extraordinary fact. Possibly the white light shed upon this anomaly by the impending Parliamentary debates may lead to some method of its removal.

It is intolerable that the voice of conscience, respected as it is in courts of law and in military service, should be stifled in that very domain of religion where conscience is supreme.

Your affectionate friend and Vicar,

R. D. HUGHES

THE FREE WILL LIST for April and May are as below, and we appreciate the faithful support of its contributors. It will be noted that the Treasurer is now Mr. E. Marriott, 17 Cliff Road.

APRIL LIST.

1... 5 0	28... 1 0	59... 1 0	178... 0 3	304 ... 12 0
11... 2 6	31... 0 4	97... 2 6	217... 2 6	
22... 2 0	32... 1 6	119... 5 0		
24... 2 6	33... 1 0	135... 2 6		
				Total £2 1 7

MAY LIST

1... 5 0	*27... 8 0	34... 5 0	75... 2 0	178 ... 0 3
7... 4 0	28... 0 6	36... 20 0	97... 2 6	220 ... 2 0
11... 2 6	30... 2 0	An. Sub.	135... 2 6	304 ... 12 0
22... 2 0	32... 1 6	37... 4 0	144... 3 0	
24... 2 6	33... 1 0	61... 30 0	163... 2 0	Total £5 14 3

ABSENTEE ENVELOPES.—In addition to the Free-Will Envelopes (the purpose of which is the support of the ministry), the Church Council has (with the able co-operation of Mr. Roycroft) issued a supply of Absentee Envelopes, whose object is to meet the substantial losses to the Church Maintenance and Expenses Account by the inevitable absences, from various causes, of the members of the Congregation. It is not sufficiently realised or remembered, that whether we are in Church or not, the heavy expenses of maintaining fabric and the various utilities are constant, and must be met; wet Sundays and holiday times bring, in consequence, their anxieties to our Council and Treasurer. Those anxieties will be greatly mitigated if each member, who gives at each Service as God has blessed him, will take a number of the coloured envelopes in the Pouch, and after an absence from Church, place one of them with the absentee collections therein on the Almshouse-plate when he returns. Each such envelope will be acknowledged by number only (the names will not be known) in the subsequent "Messenger."

We hope for hearty support from all in this matter; the burden of responsibility is not heavy when each one bears his own part, though oppressive when a few of us bear the bulk of it.

Our sympathy and prayers are with Mr. James Atlee, one of our oldest Church Officers, who is now an in-patient at the Royal Southern Hospital, Liverpool. We look forward to Mr. Atlee's early return to his happy work amongst us, with a new lease of restored health.

BAPTISMAL GUILD—Over 20 ladies form our new Guild, pledged to interest themselves in every child baptised in St. Luke's, for the early years of its life. Each anniversary of its baptism will bring one of the Guild into fresh touch with the little member of the Church. Mrs. Roycroft, Mill Lane, is kindly acting as Secretary.

VISITING—Since the arrival of the Vicar's colleague, about half our big Parish has been systematically visited by the clergy—over 2,000 houses in all, and the year will see the Parish completed. This

